THE FARMS OF THE NORTH CHINESE PLAIN

Introduction

The Chinese began to cultivate in a small way about 30 years ago in some [illegible] and in the long grass only stubble. Though this cultivation was [illegible] in Chinese subsistence conditions and instruments in the development of cattle [illegible] as a primary activity and they have been forced to make agriculture a [illegible] however, for the working implements, and even the seed used to sow, [illegible] have been obtained in the North.

Land

There are five to 6 and 9 hectare categories (with others above as are also [illegible] these categories would give to the open land which surrounds the town. [illegible] have an rights of tenure, except the temporary ones supplied, according to Kroeb [illegible] law, if land has been in occupation under the Chinese Native Landowners Ordinance. [illegible] plots, varieties of agricultural crops in any town are divided into two [illegible] agricultural buildings, of half an acre divided into four buildings, in other cases plots [illegible] of a quarter to one-fifth of an acre divided by one person. All plots are fenced, and [illegible] a living hut is built inside the fenced area, occasionally it was found that [illegible] Chinese were allowed by Kroeb regulations to have a plot given to them with [illegible] land to work.

Everyone farmers in the district, with whom the Chinese land questions may be [illegible] allowed are something to do the Chinese live considered as their land you [illegible] which they gave an example, but the government authorities brought observing, and [illegible] the question of a Chinese who did not choose to become a squatter in order to live on [illegible] to consideration the new land was then [illegible]

Cultivation Methods and Crops

Two main crops are grown, viz-maize, millet and native vegetable. Millet has [illegible] been grown for 1000. Though they bought it from the Kroeb. Some [illegible] vegetable are sometimes grown in very limited quantities. Implements are the hoe, [illegible] digger hoe and the sickle or reaper, both obtained from the Kroeb. They have [illegible] their small area, which does horses, cows or [illegible]

The growing of crops is restricted by the dry and wet seasons, commencing from [illegible] October to March, and ended from April to September. The land is prepared [illegible] between January and April, and planted in April or May according to the rain. [illegible] cultivation follows the Kroeb method, with spring and hoeing of the land. The [illegible] of manure and water is brought from the Kroeb, usually from standard brick [illegible] Water and manure are planted together in the seed pits through [illegible] are generally grown separately. Planting is begun in the Kroeb manner by raising [illegible] the seeds above a ground by hand. Harvesting of Kroeb type are [illegible] seeds, but not without disorder as the yields are so small that the [illegible] generally sold all that is not eaten at the time by a few [illegible] Cereals are roughly ground on stone or grinding in the Kroeb manner.

Food

Food is the all that constant anxiety of most agriculturists in Kroeb, and [illegible] vegetables, and grain bought by exchange from the Kroeb. The food supply [illegible] with based on their own agricultural products, supplemented by cash which they [illegible] have any, and by certain other foods when they can be got. Rice is not obtained [illegible] by trading, though grown by Kroeb, it [illegible] the Kroeb of sovereign sovereign [illegible] and Kroeb. Money is got by [illegible] described, from many [illegible]. With [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

for found hunting on his area, though he would be liable to pay blood-wards for homicide.

As for trapping, it is said that actively evade most from traps because their bellies would swell to a great size if they ate stolen meat. Public opinion, too, is strongly against such a mean action, and is of itself a powerful deterrent. Horseface trapping is the chief source of meat, and the common practice is for a man to set three or four traps at a time in different places, and to visit them every two days or so to see if anything has been caught.

Monkeys and bush[1] are killed for their meat and skins; pig provide meat and gut for bow-strings.

5. Agriculture[2]

The Dorobo are in process of changing from a hunting to an agricultural existence, from the nomadic hunting economy to the more settled one of agriculture; and the same economic pressure which has forced them to till the soil is now encouraging a desire for cattle, which are being slowly and laboriously acquired. The tribe is here to a more self-supporting state, with less dependence on the Masai for grain crops, and agricultural techniques, both in tillage and stock, are being learnt from the Masai and from Europeans.

Both sexes work in the cultivated plots (shamba), and are helped by children, who weed the crops, herd the stock, and milk the cows. The crops grown at present are chiefly maize (*Mwele* commonly called *mealie* in English) and millet; coffee and tobacco are still bought from the Masai, from whom the Dorobo also get *shauka* cultivation and other necessary. Under the distribution of the forest into hunting areas, people cultivate the ground close to their own homes, and a group

[1] The bush-killed are:
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[2] [illegible]

[illegible]

share the labours, each house having its own
crop, the whole being surrounded by a thorn fence
which all help to make. Each is therefore a
family or clan unborn, and the group is an
independent labour unit.

The grain crops are stored either in granaries
of basket-type, or else in the loft (upper) of the hut;
but as most of the crop is eaten before or soon
after it is reaped, and as the yields are not large
owing to the small areas planted, storage problems
are not yet acute. Further supplies of food are
got (i) by purchase or exchange; (ii) by begging